

DCI/ICS 85-3131
20 September 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Acting Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM:
Chairman, Information Handling Committee

25X1

SUBJECT: Response to Don Latham's Memorandum on
SAFEGUARDS

1. Attached response, for your consideration, reflects liaison we have been conducting with Don Latham's staff over the past month to determine the background and intent underlying his memo, particularly since the statement concerning his understanding of the purpose of SAFEGUARDS in the second paragraph is radically in error. We are assured that the memo is intended to extend an olive branch in reaction to your 5 July memo (reference attached) and to avoid his being caught again between the DCI and NSA in controversy over COMPUSEC responsibilities and procedures. This is consistent with my observation of his responses to NSA proposals at the NTISSC retreat several months ago.

2. We have also been working with Don Latham's staff on the rules of engagement for the working group he proposes to establish. Our objective is to keep it lean and modestly focused, ergo the reaction to the "national standard" goal I have included in your proposed response. On that score, the C³I staff agree that we should concentrate on developing commonality between DoD and the DCI, rather than try to encompass the full scope of NTISSC responsibility.

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Attachments:
As stated

All portions of this memorandum
are classified SECRET.

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Distribution: DCI/ICS 85-3131

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SECRET
The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry
85- 3729

30 SEP 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Donald C. Latham
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Command, Control, and Communications
Intelligence

SUBJECT: Implementation of Computer Security Measures

1. Thank you for your memorandum concerning the SAFEGUARDS Supplement to DCID 1/16. Your cooperation in helping to improve the near-term security of DoD owned "critical systems" will be of great value and is appreciated. We, too, are counting on the Computer Security Evaluation Center for the expert assistance necessary to long-term COMPUSEC solutions.

2. I agree to the formation of a working group for the purpose of resolving or at least reducing the differences, many of which are non-substantive, among our respective computer security guidelines. Our efforts to improve computer security will clearly benefit to the extent we can act in concert. I am, however, dubious about the prospect of implementing a "national standard" within an acceptable period of time, given the complexity of the issues and the number of agencies involved. Rather, I would opt for incremental COMPUSEC improvements that could be introduced earlier.

/S/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon

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